

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on December 28, 2006, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 8, 15, 21, and 24 are amended, claims 13 and 26 are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1, 4, 6-8, 12, 14-17, and 20-24 are now pending in this application.

35 USC § 103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 8, 12-17, 20-23 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over van Bokhorst et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,192,230) and further in view of Heiman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,002,918). Claim 24 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over van Bokhorst et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,192,230) in view of Heiman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,002,918) and further in view of Ciccone (U.S. Patent No. 6,078,819). This rejection is traversed with respect to claim 13. Claim 13 includes limitations similar to claim 26, which was found to be in condition for allowance if rewritten in independent form. Claim 13 has been canceled, and claim 8 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 13. Accordingly, applicants believe independent claim 8 is in condition for allowance. Claims 12 and 14 depend on claim 8, and are believed to be in condition for allowance at least by virtue of dependency.

Claim 15 has been amended to include limitations similar to claim 26, which was found to be in condition for allowance if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, applicants believe independent claim 15 is in condition for allowance. Claims 16, 17, and 20 depend on claim 15, and are believed to be in condition for allowance at least by virtue of dependency.

Claim 21 has been amended to include limitations similar to claim 1, which was found to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants believe independent claim 21 is in condition for allowance. Claims 22 and 23 depend on claim 21, and are believed to be in condition for allowance at least by virtue of dependency.

Claim 24 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 26, which was found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 4, 6-7 were allowed.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (952-473-8800) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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Date 2/28/06

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 28 day of February, 2007.

Name

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